

Governor Jim Douglas, Chair Governor David A. Paterson, Vice-Chair Anne D. Stubbs, Executive Director

May 1, 2008

Mr. Alex Kummant President and Chief Executive Officer National Railroad Passenger Corporation 60 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Kummant:

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding Amtrak's plan to suspend service on the Amtrak corridor between Boston and New Haven for four days from June 14-17, 2008 while work on the Thames River Bridge between Groton and New London, Connecticut is completed. We understand that Amtrak's current planning in relation to this work does not provide any alternative service during this time period – an unacceptable plan that will negatively affect travelers not only in the Boston-New Haven corridor, but also travelers to and from New York City and beyond.

The Boston to Washington, D.C. corridor is the most heavily traveled of all Amtrak rail lines. The disruptions this four-day suspension will create will represent a hardship for thousands of business and other travelers. As Governors, it is our responsibility to ensure that the public interest is well served. We are writing today to strongly urge you to work with our respective Departments of Transportation to find alternate service while the work is completed.

We recognize how important rail travel is in each of our states and we understand that this work is necessary and urgent, but travelers in this corridor must not be left to essentially fend for themselves for four days. It is imperative that Amtrak work with the states to explore feasible alternatives.

The respective transportation agencies in our states stand ready to work with Amtrak to develop alternate rail routes and/or bus service to meet the needs of the thousands of commuters and other travelers who rely on the convenience and availability of Amtrak's Acela service each day.

We are requesting that you schedule a meeting as quickly as possible with the heads of our Departments of Transportation to explore alternatives for the traveling public in our states while the bridge work is completed. Again, our states look forward to working with you to resolve this problem.

Sincerely,

Jim Douglas
OONEG Chair

Governor of Vermont

Jon S. Corzine

CONEG Lead Governor for Transportation

Governor of New Jersey

John E. Baldacci Governor of Maine David D. Patrison

David A. Paterson CONEG Vice-chair Governor of New York

M. Jogn Rell

Governor of Connecticut

John Lynch

Governor of New Hampshire